

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 6-8, 16-18, 23, 26-28, 34-36, 38 and 49-54 are currently pending in this application. Claims 23 and 38 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 23 and 38.

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner acknowledge the PTO Form 1449 (IDS) filed on January 4, 2002 by returning an initialed copy of the IDS.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to accept the drawings filed on January 4, 2002.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6-8, 16, 23, 26-28, 34 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,636,890 (“Mandalia”). Independent claims 23 and 38 have been amended to clarify the present invention as recited. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, on page 18, lines 23-25 of the Specification. To the extent that his rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention relates to a receiver/decoder that displays, by means of an email application, an email received in a broadcast signal at said receiver/decoder. Particularly, the entire text of an email received at the mail center is broadcast to the receiver/decoder and the entire text of the email is displayed at the receiver/decoder by means of the email application thereon.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Mandalia relates to a stand-alone Internet mailbox which utilizes cable television signal distribution networks for delivering e-mail messages. The

mailbox disclosed in Mandalia is configured to capture, decode, decrypt, and store *the mail* which is broadcast to the mailbox, based on subscriber ID information.

With respect to the rejection of the claims, the Examiner attempts to equate the stand-alone mailbox (reference numeral 68 in Figure 3 of Mandalia) with the receiver/decoder of the claimed invention. The term “receiver/decoder” is a term that is known in the art with a meaning that extends beyond that of the mailbox disclosed in Mandalia. Specifically, a receiver/decoder refers to a device that *receives and decodes broadcast signals*, such as television programs. Accordingly, independent claims 23 and 38 have been amended to clarify that the receiver/decoder is used to “provide a user with access to television programs and services.” As described above, the mailbox disclosed in Mandalia is only used to receive and decode/decrypt *mail*, and not broadcast signals. Therefore, it is not possible for the mailbox disclosed in Mandalia to provide users with access to television programs and other services related to broadcast signals. Thus, those skilled in the art would not equate the mailbox of Mandalia with the receiver/decoder of the claimed invention.

In view of the above, it is clear that Mandalia fails to disclose each and every limitation of the amended independent claims. Thus, independent claims 23 and 38 are patentable over Mandalia. Further, dependent claims 6-8, 26-28, and 34 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 17-18 and 35-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mandalia in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,610 (“Uchida”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Mandalia fails to disclose each and every limitation of amended independent claims 23 and 38. Further, Uchida fails to supply that which Mandalia lacks. Specifically, Uchida relates to a broadcast communication system for distributing electronic mail to a plurality of specific subscribers over networks such as an internet and a local area network (LAN). The system of Uchida separately stores and sends a portion of electronic mails with an access code for filtering and retrieving. However, Uchida fails to disclose or suggest a receiver/decoder as required by the amended independent claims. In fact, Uchida is completely

silent with respect to a receiver/decoder that provides users with access to a plurality of television programs and services.

In view of the above, it is clear that independent claims 23 and 38 are patentable over Mandalia and Uchida, whether considered separately or in combination. Dependent claims 17-18 and 35-36 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 51-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mandalia in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,963 (“Bosco”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Mandalia fails to disclose each and every limitation of amended independent claims 23 and 38. Further, Bosco fails to supply that which Mandalia lacks. Bosco relates to an email notification system using a telephone, voicemail, or pager. Bosco is completely silent to using a broadcast signal to deliver or notify users regarding received e-mail. Thus, it is not possible for Bosco to disclose a receiver/decoder because the invention disclosed in Bosco has no need for a receiver/decoder to deliver e-mail. Instead, the communication in Bosco relies on unicast, or possibly multicast, techniques. As those skilled in the art will appreciate, unicast and multicast transmissions are completely different from broadcast transmissions.

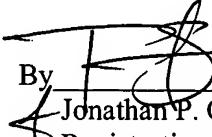
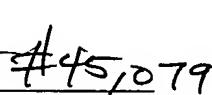
In view of the above, it is clear that independent claims 23 and 38 are patentable over Mandalia and Bosco, whether considered separately or in combination. Dependent claims 51 and 54 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 11345/046001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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